

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER. VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR. The Bee Publishing Company, Proprietor.

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FEBRUARY CIRCULATION 51,715

State of Nebraska, County of Douglas, ss. I, Dwight Williams, circulation manager of The Bee Publishing Company, being duly sworn, say that the average daily circulation for the month of February, 1914, was 51,715.

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 2d day of March, 1914. ROBERT HUNTER, Notary Public.

Subscribers leaving the city temporarily should have The Bee mailed to them. Address will be changed as often as requested.

Move to Make Kentucky Dry—Headline. Only the weather man can do that.

Just by way of admonition to auto speeders The Bee repeats, "Go slow!"

Villa may yet clear up the Benton case by explaining that the Briton was shot with noiseless powder.

The searchlight is to be turned on the radium lobby so that every one can see through it.

But does not the purchase of that lot at Sacramento put the unemployed in the vicious capitalist class?

Now, let every sinner fall in line with this go-to-church project and be there on time next Sunday morning.

Poor old Johnny Bull, with the militants and Ulsterites pounding him from opposite sides, he must find life somewhat crotchety.

That Missouri judge who refused to believe that a plumber was bankrupt was exemplifying the show-me motto of his state in a very rational way.

The Social Service board essays to improve conditions in boarding houses, but it will hardly attempt an assault upon the boarding house hash and prune dessert.

Now that Uncle Sam and Johnny Bull have tangible evidence that Rancher Benton was stabbed to death in a rough-and-tumble fight with the bandit, Villa, what are they going to do about it?

For the \$7,000,000 invested in the water plant Omaha could have bought the gas works and the electric lighting plant and had the million dollars wanted for the parks, and then some. But what's the use?

The establishment of a district exempt from the 8 o'clock lid law is advocated by Commissioner Kugel in charge of the police department in a current topic talk. We fear, however, the suggestion would not be quite so cordially received if he told it to the legislature.

Snapped in Kansas Wednesday. Wonder anybody's left there when California is what she is—San Francisco Call.

But the snow makes millions for the wheat and live stock growers, and besides it is not Kansas and adjacent states where we find hordes of unemployed these days, either.

The state fire commissioner gives vent to the suspicion that at least a dozen fires recently reported from Omaha are of incendiary origin. Well, what have we a state fire commissioner and a city fire warden for? If there is an arson trust here, or even a single firebug, why not go to it, and smoke 'em out?

And now our local democratic oracle explains that the prevailing business depression is due to "a state of mind." That's an admission that there is business depression, and the only thing lacking is recognition of some connection between the "state of mind" and a democratic administration in control of our government.

Thirty Years Ago This Day in Omaha

The city council held a lengthy session, confirming appointments for election officers and approving bonds. Samuel J. Hahn, Dennis Cunningham and Ed Ahncow were named to assess damages for opening Phil Sheridan street and Widening Plum street.

Horace Jones and William Stevens were named to assess damages for Nicholas street and A. L. Strang. Thomas Swobe and J. C. Kennedy will assess damages for widening Farnam streets west to the city limits.

The democratic city primaries went through as per program, except that in the First ward George W. Duncan beat Felix Slavin and in the Third Pat Ford won out.

In an exciting polo contest a team from Blair beat the Omaha contestants at the roller skating rink. D. W. Van Cott was referee and Messrs. Morford and Daniels judges. Omaha was represented by Messrs. McKoon, Canfield, Hitchcock, Halphrey, Gratton and Ruidisoud.

More rain and oceans of the finest mud in America. Chief Clerk Griffin of the railway mail service will soon commence sending mail through from this city to Denver via the Burlington. This, with the mail sent out on the Union Pacific, at noon, will give two trains daily for Colorado mail.

A resolution offered by Councilman Kauffman aims to involve this city in buying seven copies of the city directory for the use of city officials.

Safety First for Movies.

The city council is enacting an ordinance revising the schedule of license fees for moving picture shows, and the fact that the movie men are taking it so complacently is proof that it is a revision for their benefit.

It is notorious that many of the movies are in buildings constructed with no expectation of such use and that mighty few of them are housed in buildings that would pass all the tests that ought to be required.

While fixing up the license fee for the movie men, therefore, the city council could very well add and enforce, a few more safety rules. A good, big and collectible bond as a prerequisite to the issue of a license, the bond running for the benefit of any one with a claim for damages based on violation of safety requirements, would probably be an effective antidote to carelessness and forgetfulness.

Amplifying Parcel Post. Bearing in mind that the parcel post was designed as general and not class legislation and that it is being worked out along the broad lines as a comprehensive utility, should dull the point of criticism and complaint urged by express companies, one of which has announced its plan of dissolution and retirement.

At first for some reason thus far unexplained, the system did not apply to books, but does now. The book publisher, seller and lender may avail themselves of it.

Among the provisions of the administration's trade commission bill is the following: Any person who shall make public any information obtained by the commission without its authority shall be deemed guilty of misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine not exceeding \$5,000, or by imprisonment not exceeding one year, or by fine and imprisonment in the discretion of the court.

Peril of Bureaucracy. While, of course, the commission must carefully guard confidential information secured on pledge of secrecy pertaining to private business, it is, nevertheless, questionable whether such sweeping power for suppressing publicity should be accorded. It might invite bureaucratic interference and dictation, the very suggestion of which is abhorrent to our democratic sense of safety and propriety.

It does not quite appear why powers should be given this particular commission, which are not enjoyed by any other agency within the government. Indeed, this is the one department of all, it would seem from its own character, that should renounce such arbitrary claims, for the very reason that the basic principle on which the commission proposes to operate is little to it but publicity.

No one could rightly complain if the law merely provided penalties for any members or attaches of the commission who broke faith and divulged confidential information. Surely such a law would be more in line with the popular attitude and give the commission all the authority it ought to have.

Shall Nebraska Take Part at San Francisco? Shall Nebraska participate in the Panama exposition at San Francisco? The failure of the last legislature to appropriate any money or make provision for an exhibit has left this question still open, but it cannot remain open much longer.

Agitation is starting early to incite the next Nebraska legislature to call a constitutional convention. It was supposed that the initiative and referendum cleared the track for amending the constitution without the aid or consent of any legislature or convention.

Keeping the Record Straight. SILVER CREEK, Neb., March 24.—To the Editor of The Bee: The plank in the last democratic platform exempting coastwise ships from canal tolls was emphasized during the campaign on the theory that it would prevent trans-continental railroads from raising their freight rates.

Paving Experience of South Omaha. SOUTH OMAHA, March 24.—To the Editor of The Bee: In a recent issue of The Bee there was an article in the letter box under the head of "Call it a Case of Cold Feet." It was a letter written by Thomas S. Crocker and approved by George W. Hill in regard to selecting material for paving Forty-first street between Hamilton and Nicholas streets.

Whither Are We Drifting? OMAHA, March 24.—To the Editor of The Bee: Of the numerous communications that have appeared in your paper from the time of President Wilson's last message to the congress of the United States on the repeal of the canal tolls provision of the Hay-Pauncefote treaty, not one has read treating upon this very important subject.

Competition among French aviators has brought passenger rates down to \$2.00 per flight, which allows no rake-off for funeral expenses. Champion Gould of the tennis world is a grandson of Jay Gould, who will be remembered as quite a champion quill at a different game.

Mathias Constanta, a Greek living in Hammond, Ind., received news from Greece that he had fallen heir to a \$1,000,000 estate. He immediately hired five friends of his at a salary of \$5,000 a year to help him spend his income and started for home with the intention of having a very good time on the way.

Queen Eleonora of Bulgaria, who promises to visit the United States in May next, is a charming person and will be quite "at home" among the uncrowned queens of this country. An assistant manager of a kingdom a little more than half the size of Nebraska she is assured of royal hospitality and an abundance of suggestions on managing affairs in the "effete east."

Lord Halsbury, who heads the committee of five nobles who are to investigate Lord Murray and the Marconi scandal, is 80 years old, and sixty-four years ago, as Mr. Giffard, he stoutly defended Governor Ely, who was on trial for cruelty in Jamaica. When he burst into tears the court suggested that if he could not put himself together they had better go to lunch.

Christine Laod Franklin of New York City has begun a crusade against what she calls the indecent advertising of women's underwear. She says that of the world has been brought to its present state of elevation above the brute by the hardest kind of work on the part of the women, and she wants them to fight every effort to lower the standard. She asks women, whether organized or not, to protest to the firms in the towns in which they live against such illustrations.

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How They Fall for It in Canada

William J. Burns, the noted graft detective, has just made a big haul of crooks in the Quebec legislature. In the current Harper's Weekly he tells how it was done, and from his story these extracts are taken.

"We have just driven a coach-and-four through the Quebec legislature—both houses. They still lie tumbled in disarray, and it will be several months before they pick themselves together.

"The first problem was to reach out gradually so that no suspicion should be aroused. Legislative graft in Canada is worked through lawyers. Here in this country a girl holds up a prominent citizen, not by white slavery and blackmail direct, but by going to a lawyer—and then it is all legal.

"My clients had understood that Canadian politics were rotten. They had been told that the legislators were for sale cheap, that you could get any kind of a bill through. So we started to see. We worked up the worst sort of bill—a bill for a Montreal Fair association. That bill gave us the right to do anything short of murder. We had liquor rights, special police, horse racing, every kind of grafting privilege. It was a bill that let us own one section of the town for every kind of illicit activity. It was as raw a bill as you could think up. Here is what happened:

"But coming from the outside world, we couldn't hit the high lights too suddenly, or they'd worry, so we picked up Montreal's prize 'fizzer.' He brought us in touch with a lawyer. The lawyer was the right man, and he did a thorough job for us. We gave him \$500 and \$1,000, and those checks are in evidence. He said our man in the Lower House was J. O. Mousseau, member of the legislative assembly, chairman of the private bills committee. Through his hands, on his recommendation, all bills went. His say was final.

"Mousseau met us in room 205 of the Chateau Frontenac. On December 15, at 9:30 a. m., we paid him \$1,100 for members of the lower house. He showed us a list of eleven men whom he was buying. We gave him \$1,000 for himself. First and last, we paid him \$1,500. He said it would take only three weeks to get the bill through the assembly bills.

"For the Upper House, Mousseau highly recommended Louis Philippe Berard. He said of Berard: 'I think in him we will secure the best member of the Upper House. Mr. Berard is in the Montreal ring. All the men in Quebec live off the government.'

"Berard is a member of the law firm to which Prime Minister Gouin belong. Both Berard and the premier were poor men a few years ago and today are millionaires. Berard presented the petition for the bill in the upper house. Five hundred dollars was paid to Berard. Another member of the Upper House, Achille Bergevin, received \$200 and \$350. Bergevin's \$200 was referred to as 'cigar money.'

"Bergevin and de Varennes, chairman of the private bills committee of the Upper House, called for our men on the last great day and took them in a sleigh to the House. De Varennes said that the bill was going through all right. Our dummy promoters were taken in as honored guests upon the floor of the legislative council to see the bill unanimously approved. Then Bergevin took them around to the clerk's office, secured a copy of the bill as passed, and autographed the legislative council of the legislature of Quebec enacted assembly bill No. 105. This measure, a law of the Province of Quebec, authorizes the promoters to run wildcat, to organize and control every sort of exhibition, to keep places of amusement, conduct race courses, run a private police force.

"The price set for the passage was \$2,500. Members of the legislature received \$4,550. Four thousand six hundred and fifty dollars is still owed.

"The Canadian legislators have been money-crazy. They have forced this habit of taking money for corrupt bills. They haven't had investigations. The graft system has just been taken for granted. Now the people are determined to follow out our policy of clean-up and make a clean-up. Canada has been silent on this policy of wholesale widespread graft, while we've told all the world about our bits of corruption. So our frankness has made us look like worse grafters, than the silent, effective Canadian way of looting the people. The situation had gone on undisturbed so many years that they had never suspected a plot. They were easy to reach. You just started in and aimed for your man and got him."

People and Events

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CHEERY CHAFF.

"On, on!" cried the rebel leader, excitedly. "Where on?" asked his loyal troops. "Where on?" shouted the leader. "Columbia! Toronto!"—Baltimore American.

"I suppose your admiring friends will raise a monument to you some time?" "I hope not," replied Senator Sorghum. "I'd rather have 'em take the subscriptions right now and take 'em into a campaign fund."—Washington Star.

"So you were at the ball last night, ah? Then you must have danced with Miss Fairleigh." "I saw her going into the chiropodist's this morning."—Philadelphia Ledger.

"She has a complexion like Dresden china." "Yes, and it is like Dresden china in another way." "What is that?" "If she's not careful with it, it will crack."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

"I guess I must be really getting famous." "So the critics speak well of your new novel?" "No; but a tobacco concern wants my picture to use in an advertisement."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

"I read everything you write," she said when she had succeeded in getting the pale-faced poet into a corner where nobody would overhear them. "I'm very brave of you to do that," he replied.

"I suppose it runs in my family. Both my father and my grandfather were fearless soldiers."—Boston Transcript.

"Before I consent to your engagement with my daughter, I must be sure that you are a good business man. Supposing

now, a long and hard frost were to come on and you had a warehouse full of manufactured ice, what would you do with it?"—Pileggi-Bharter.

THEIR NAME IS LEGION.

New York Times. Mrs. Ben Adam (may her tribe not post) Awoke one night from dreams of growing stout.

And as she lay, frightened and sorely troubled, Feeling her chin to see that 'twas not doubled, She smiled, perched on a chair right by her bed, A vision, sweetly gowned and quite well-head.

A book she rested on her tight-clad knee, And at it she was staring patiently. In wonder, then, the awakened lady said: "Why are you here?" The vision raised her head.

"To get the names," she answered, "I was sent. Of all the women who abandon bridge in Lent." She opened wide a spotless, unmarked book, "Not one have I yet found," and added, "Look!"

"Don't write me down!" quick cried out Mrs. Ben, "For if one stops for forty days, why, then One's place is lost in her swift social rush, And there, one has to stay outside. But, hush! She whispered: "Write me down with those Who only play one table." The vision rose, And, with a weary sigh, she shook her head, "No book would hold the names of those," she said.

MARMON The Easiest Riding Car in the World. May We Prove to You— That the Marmon "48" is safer and will hold the road better at high speed than any other motor car in the world? This is not merely a "claim" nor an "assertion." It is a fact which we are prepared to prove to you conclusively. There are other features in this car and in the Marmon "41" (a smaller size) which it will pay you to know. May we prove them to you? Marion Automobile Co. 2101-2103 Farnam St., Omaha, Neb. C. W. McDonald, Mgr. Over Sixty Years of Successful Manufacturing

Last Days to cast votes Contest Closes March 28, 12 O'clock Noon

The Number of Votes Cast in The Bee's M. & M. Voting Contest Has Been Enormous Contestants should take advantage of every opportunity to collect the number of votes stipulated for the last week.

Pastime Pleasure and Dancing Club Thursday Evening at Douglas Auditorium



Geo. Rohan and Carl Lamp's Combined Orchestras

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